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6 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Information Technology

FROM: [redacted]

Chief

Technology Transfer Assessment Center

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SUBJECT: Need for access to a DEC VAX minicomputer

1. TTAC is currently conducting a software enhancement project at a west coast contractor site which involves the Digital Equipment Corporation VAX/VMS operating system. This project supports a DCI initiative directed at countering Soviet acquisition of advanced computer technology. Part of this project will require integration of an NSA supplied data encryption algorithm into the VAX/VMS operating system. [redacted]

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2. The NSA algorithm is classified Top Secret Codeword and has cryptographic quality sufficient to protect Top Secret Codeword data even though it was specifically designed for use under clandestine operational conditions. NSA provided this algorithm as a high level procedure description and an IBM System/370 assembler language listing. NSA has also requested that the algorithm remain in government hands to the extent possible because of the potential danger that it represents to their collection and processing capabilities. [redacted]

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3. TTAC needs to convert the algorithm to the VAX instruction set and to access the performance impact that this algorithm will have on VAX/VMS operations. We request OIT assistance in converting and testing this algorithm (preferably on a VAX computer in Headquarters Building). The testing is not expected to require operating system modifications and can be conducted as a normal applications environment. [redacted]

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4. TTAC's project officer for this effort is [redacted] TTAC/OSG on [redacted]

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